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February 9, 2005

The Honorable John Cornyn
United States Senate
617 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Bankruptcy Venue Reform

Dear Senator Cornyn:

Our firm has had the privilege of representing the Official Employment-Related Issues Committee in the Enron Bankruptcies. The unusual appointment of such a committee was necessitated, at least in part, by the fact that Enron filed bankruptcy in New York, rather than in Houston, where the vast majority of its employees resided. The Employee Committee was tasked with representing the interests of former and current employees and with disseminating information to those employees, who otherwise would have found it prohibitively expensive to have their substantial rights addressed. The Employee Committee has fulfilled those tasks, but such an appointment is rare. In nearly all bankruptcy filings, the employees do not have representation appointed by the United States Trustee and must represent their own individual interests. When the corporate employer files for bankruptcy in a distant forum, those employees can be left with no practical remedies for the loss of their livelihoods. We therefore support your efforts in eliminating loopholes in the bankruptcy venue provisions, so that small creditors, and particularly employees, receive the Due Process they deserve.

Very truly yours,


Mark Maney